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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/27/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KUNR](#) [UNSC](#)

SUBJECT: ACTION REQUEST: SYG BAN PROPOSES SOUTH AFRICAN
JUDGE FOR UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER

Classified By: Ambassador Zalmay M. Khalilzad, per 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) SYG Ban Ki-Moon told Amb Khalilzad on June 26 that he intends to appoint South African judge Navanethem Pillay to be the next UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Pillay, who is of Indian origin, has served as a judge on both the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) as well as in several high judicial positions in South Africa. Ban described her as well-qualified, with broad experience in human rights cases. If the U.S. objects to Pillay's selection, Ban said, it should convey its concerns to him quickly. Separately, Ban sought U.S. suggestions on a successor to David Veness, UN U/SYG for Safety and Security. He also said he plans to replace Amcit Diana Russler, deputy to Veness.

¶2. (C) ACTION REQUEST: USUN seeks Department views as soon as possible on the Pillay appointment as well as suggestions for a successor to David Veness.
Khalilzad